

A TRIBUTE TO AWILDA ROSARIO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Awilda Rosario, a woman committed to the dignified care of the aging in her community.

Awilda Rosario was born in Fajardo, Puerto Rico on December 3, 1951. She grew up with her mother, step-father and three sisters. Early on she was irresistibly attracted to reading and learning about the world and how people live. During her high school years, inspired by her Spanish Literature teachers, she discovered her love for human studies. After graduating from high school in the town of Loiza, she attended the University of Puerto Rico where she completed a Bachelors degree in Spanish Literature with a minor in Sociology.

After teaching Spanish Literature at the high school level, Ms. Rosario decided to immigrate to New York, invited by one of her cousins who already lived there. Once in New York, she started to connect with her ex-classmates and friends who helped her land her first job.

Because there are no accidents, that first job was as a Caseworker at Diana Jones Senior Center in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Her position afforded her the opportunity to work with community groups to advocate on behalf of the elderly.

At that moment, just emerging from the 70's, the New York City Department for the Aging was not as yet the developed and diverse agency that it is today. The needs of the minority elderly, especially those unable to understand the complexity of the benefits and entitlement programs went mostly unmet. Many minority elderly individuals simply did not apply for benefit programs because they did not know they existed. Even if they knew, they didn't know how to apply for them. For this reason, she joined forces with Mr. Ed Mendez-Santiago, who would later be appointed the Commissioner for the New York City Department for the Aging. The organization he founded, the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-Raices, became a forerunner for advocacy and expansion of services that made benefits and entitlement programs accessible to the minority elderly. She held the position of Chairperson of the Board for a good number of years.

After a few years of working as a caseworker, Ms. Rosario was appointed as the Director of the North Brooklyn meals-on-wheels program, also funded by the Department for the Aging and sponsored by Wartburg Lutheran Home for the Aging. During that time Ms. Rosario became very active with the community and served as a member of the Board of Directors of several organizations including the New York State Office for the Aging, Vision for the Blind, East New York Interagency Council and the Brownsville-Ocean Hill Interagency Council.

After completing her Masters in Social Work and Administration at Hunter College, Wartburg Lutheran offered her the position of Director of Adult Day Health Care program which she held until several years ago. After 21 years with Wartburg, Ms. Rosario came to work with Brooklyn United Methodist Church Home to serve as Director of their Adult Day Care Program. As always, she continues to enjoy her work with the elderly and with those whose needs can be met by the services offered by this program. She is grateful to Brooklyn United Methodist for the opportunity to continue working with the community and doing what she likes.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
MARCH 31

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine Federal school meal programs, focusing on nutrition for kids in schools.

SR-328A

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To continue hearings to examine health insurance industry practices.

SR-253

Finance

To hold an oversight hearing to examine a six month update on the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP).

SD-215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, focusing on the progress it has made since the financial crisis of the 1990s, the financial management challenges in the years

ahead, and the steps that are being taken to address those challenges.

SD-342

Environment and Public Works

Water and Wildlife Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Environmental Protection Agency's role in promoting water use efficiency.

SD-406

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Economic Policy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine lessons from the New Deal.

SD-538

2:45 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the return and resettlement of displaced Iraqis.

SD-419

APRIL 1

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan.

SD-106

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Karen Gordon Mills, of Maine, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's renewable fuel standard.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

Appropriations

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assistance for civilian casualties of war.

SD-138

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of W. Scott Gould, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

2 p.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SR-328A

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David F. Hamilton, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, and Ronald H. Weich, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD-226

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the implementation of Wounded Warrior policies and programs.

SD-106

APRIL 2

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine recovery and reinvestment spending.

SD-342

APRIL 22

2:30 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending health related legislation.

SR-418

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending benefits related legislation.

SR-418

MAY 21

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to markup pending legislation.

SR-418